

REMARKS

This reply is submitted in response to the Official Letter, dated July 8, 2005. Sixteen (16) claims are pending and remain for consideration. Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims and further examination of the application is respectfully requested.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants acknowledge the acceptance of the formal drawings filed on October 24, 2003.

IN THE CLAIMS

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0226698, to Kamen, on December 11, 2003. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §102(e), A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

the invention was described in - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The patent application to Kamen was published after the filing date of the present patent application. Hence, the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is improper and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully submitted.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Kamen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,409,265, issued to Koerlin. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6, 14 and 15 depend from claims 1 and 11. Kamen fails to cure the deficiencies in claims 1 and 11 set forth above. Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully submitted.

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.